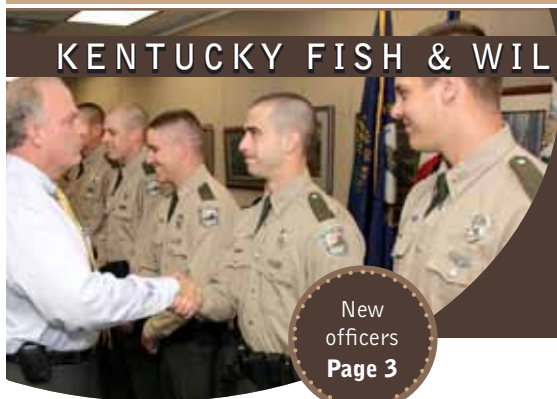


August 2012

—VOL. 7 NO. 8—



New  
officers  
Page 3

## A Note from the Commissioner

I want to update you on our current (FY13) budget status. Understandably, I know you have concerns since each Division has been involved with budget "trimming." This current year has been a challenge and is directly related to the following factors:

- Personnel costs increased due to insurance and retirement rates.
- Our state license revenue declined in License Year 2012. This number was used as our revenue base for the FY 13 budget.
- Also more "baby boomers" are recruiting to the \$5/Senior license
- Federal Sport Fish Restoration Funds have declined since they are based on fishing license sales.

With this background, our budget reduction strategy is similar to your personal finances: **DO NOT SPEND MORE THAN YOU MAKE!**

To respond to the above budget impacts, some of our reduction methods include:

- Reducing fleet vehicles including a car pool for Headquarters, along with curtailing the purchase of new vehicles in this budget cycle;
- Eliminating blackberries and reissuance of less expensive phones/devices where necessary;
- Negotiating new cell phone costs;
- Curtailing and delaying the purchase of

new capital outlay items (e.g., boats, atvs, etc.) in this budget cycle;

- Delaying the filling of unfilled positions;
- Reducing out of state travel;
- Reducing printing costs in favor of more technological advances; and
- Identify other inefficiencies that translate to immediate cost savings.

**The good news is that KDFWR received an exemption from a 8% budget reduction that all other state agencies were forced to endure.** Dissimilar from other state agencies, we have a stable Fish and Game Fund that can be used as a backup for necessary expenses. However, it has been our routine practice to avoid use of these funds for our Operating Budget. We do use these funds for our Capital/Land Acquisition Projects, but many of these receive a significant reimbursement to offset this debit.

We think a Second Quarter Appropriation increase will be possible with documentation of our **internal cost-saving strategies** as well as the fact that **license revenues have increased since FY 12 projections and Federal Aid Receipts for Wildlife Restoration are predicted to increase.**

I hope to send the Divisions a budget document in the next 2 weeks, along with some temporary expenditure delays, that will mitigate this loss of the budget increase in the 1st Quarter. Also I hope you



will provide your Director with any other cost-savings measures and/or revenue generating ideas that might further assist the Department's efforts in providing the most efficient service to all hunters and anglers.

In summary, this is not a crisis, and we periodically have to reexamine our spending strategies – again no different than your personal finances. Please continue to perform the great service you provide to our anglers, boaters, and hunters.

Jon Gassett

INSIDE:



4 RIP  
Kinney



10 Pond  
restored



12 Dept.  
award

## WE GET MAIL

### *Letters to the Commissioner's Office*

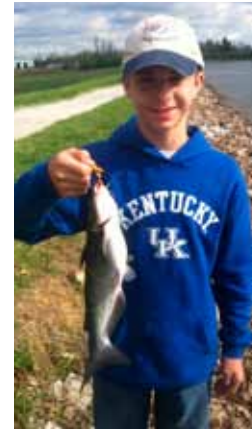
My name is Steve Pugh. I just want to thank everyone (especially **Dane Balsman** and **Jeremiah Smith**) who has anything to do with putting the Madison Park Lake in the Department's Fishing in Neighborhoods program (FINs). These kids and many more have had a wonderful time catching the stocked fish. It's great to have a place so close to take a kid fishing.

The following note came to **Sgt. Marcus Bowling** and his K-9 Unit, **Roscoe**. Ms. Rhonda Jewell from Caldwell County wrote, "Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to come to 4-H Camp, June 7, for our "Real World Heroes" event. The kids loved it and I believe had a terrific time. They absolutely loved Roscoe and thought you had the coolest job ever. We appreciate all you and the others do to support and protect our youth at camp."

The following note was written to **Gary Rogers** and **John Coffey** by Lyric Brandenburg. Lyric wrote, "Thank you so much for allowing me to come to Camp Earl Wallace! I had lots of fun! The staff is great and they are so nice. The counselors really help when you are missing home and don't think you will make it until Friday. Camp is really fun and I do not think you should change a thing. The food is great and almost like home. I would like to come back next summer. I am sad that it will be my last year but I will make sure when I have kids that they will come."

The following email came from Larry Allen. Mr. Allen wrote, "As the Summer Camp season comes to an end, I want to thank you and the Department for the wonderful service you provide to campers.

My trips to Camp Earl Wallace 55



Left to right: Makayla Koon with a channel catfish caught on April 14, 2012, Landon Holt with a rainbow trout caught on April 15, 2012, and Dustin Holt with a channel catfish caught on April 15, 2012; all of Madisonville.

*Steve Pugh photos*

years ago gave me skills that I still use today. Those trips also gave me memories that will last forever.

Two of my grandchildren have had the good fortune to attend Camp Currie. They too have memories that will last a life time. Both have their targets from camp framed and hung in their bedrooms. Their love of the outdoors and outdoor activities was heightened by camp. My older granddaughter bagged her first deer last season and I credit her interest to attending camp.

There is a better and healthier future for our youth outdoors compared to sitting inside and playing video games.

Thank you for making these opportunities available to our youth."

The following letter came from Mark Nethery, President of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen to Commission Chairman Steve Glenn. "The Officers and Board of Directors of the LKS acknowledges that membership and make-up of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission is fluid and subject to change. This is even more the case with recent enacting and implementation of appointment limits for Commissioners. With that being said we wish to make the following observations regarding the current Commission.

The LKS BOD and Officers wish to recognize the positive change and supportive attitude in the KDFWR and Commission displayed in recent months. Of particular note, the current District

Commissioners have worked in an open and fair manner in dealing with resolutions and issues brought forth by the LKS.

The LKS BOD and Officers also feel it necessary to clear up any misunderstandings that might exist regarding our support for the KDFWR Law Enforcement Division. The LKS has never supported any efforts to diminish the law enforcement authority of Conservation Officers of the Commonwealth. There seems to have been some misinformation to the contrary as a result of the confusing array of legislation put forth during the General Assemblies session of 2010. The LKS BOD would call attention to the fact that our only official action related directly to Law Enforcement Authority of KDFWR in recent years was in the form of a unanimous BOD vote in support of Senate Bill 112 in the most recent session. We remain firmly committed to supporting our Conservation Officers as we have for over 75 years.

It is therefore with the utmost respect that the League of Kentucky Sportsmen Officers and Board of Directors offer this letter of appreciation to current KDFWR Commissioners, Management, and Staff. While issues of great importance still exist regarding such things as Asian carp and small game populations, the LKS is committed to working with the KDFWR Leadership, the excellent KDFWR Staff, and the KDFWR Commission for long term, productive solutions related to these and other issues.



## Five new conservation officers take oath of office

**F**ive new conservation officers are working in the field this week after taking the oath of office last week before Franklin District Judge Robert Olds.

The new officers are **Lucas Tucker, Dana Dolen, Bradley Stafford, Steve Jenkins** and **Zachary Brooks**. They took their oaths immediately after completing the department's 12-week academy.

Tucker will be assigned to Rockcastle County, Dolen to Clinton, Stafford to Boyd, Jenkins to Carroll and Brooks to Fulton.

Prior to completing the Fish and Wildlife academy, they were among 27 new law enforcement officers from 19 agencies across Kentucky that graduated July 20 from basic training at the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training in Richmond.

They were part of DOCJT's graduates of Class 434 that completed 18 weeks of training, which consisted of more than 750 hours of recruit-level-officer academy instruction.

Tucker served as Class 434's Leader and delivered the graduation ceremony's keynote address. Dolen received the Adjutant Award, Stafford the Coordinator's Award and Jenkins won the Firearms Proficiency Award.

Major training areas included during the 18 weeks included homeland security, law offenses and procedures, vehicle operations, firearms, investigations, first aid/CPR, patrol procedures, orientation for new law enforcement families and mechanics of arrest, restraint and control.

Basic training is mandatory for Kentucky law enforcement officers who are required to comply with the state's Peace Officer Professional Standards Act of 1998. The Department of Criminal Justice Training provides basic training for city and county police officers, sheriffs' deputies, university police, airport police and others.



Franklin District Judge Robert Olds with new officers Lucas Tucker, Dana Dolen, Steve Jenkins, Bradley Stafford and Zachary Brooks.

## Sergeant Tony Wright retires

**C**onservation Officer **Sergeant Tony Wright** retired July 31, with 23 years of service.

Tony began his career with the state in May of 1989 as a member of the Kentucky Water Patrol assigned to Lake Cumberland. He continued that assignment with Fish and Wildlife as a member of the Ninth Law Enforcement District when the Water Patrol joined the department in 1994.

He was assigned to numerous special events on Lake Cumberland. He was promoted to sergeant and transferred to Taylor County in the Fourth District.

He began his law enforcement career with the Jamestown Police Department in 1985.

Tony was a member of the United States Army from 1977 to 1980 and mem-



ber of the Army Reserves until 1983. He also served as a member of the Kentucky National Guard from 1985 to 1988.

He also volunteered with the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department in 1985 and currently serves as assistant chief. He served as its Chief from 1999 to March of this year.

## Goodbye Kinney: Peregrine falcon released in Kentucky 19 years ago has died

**K**inney, the oldest and most productive peregrine falcon in the Midwest, has died at the age of nineteen.

Kinney was "hacked" or released in Lexington by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) in 1993. Restoration efforts for peregrine falcons were in full swing in the 1990's and involved the release of many young falcons in urban areas and locations with natural cliffs.

Kinney dispersed from Lexington to set up a nesting territory in Indianapolis, IN, where he lived out a life of fame and reproductive success. Between 1995 and 2012 he fathered 61 young, using the 31st floor of the Market Tower as a nest site.

In recent years, a webcam allowed the public to watch Kinney and his nesting partner, Kathy Q, raise their young. Kinney had two female mates over his lifetime and had nested with Kathy Q for 11 years. In his last year, he and Kathy Q raised two chicks which have already left the nest.

Kinney was found dead July 20 at the 29th floor of Market Tower where he nested. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources reported that Kinney appeared to have collided with the building. The average life span for a peregrine falcon is 6-8 years, though it's not uncommon for them to live over 10 years. However, very few live over 15 years and Kinney ran just short of being the oldest peregrine falcon documented.

Kinney had been called "Indianapolis's favorite peregrine falcon," but due to the webcam provided at his nest, his popularity extended much further.

Management and monitoring of peregrine falcon populations continues in



Kinney was released in Lexington, KY in 1993 and later set records in productivity and longevity.  
*Indiana DNR photo*

Kentucky and throughout the midwest, even though the species was taken off the endangered species list in 1999. KDFWR works with private companies and public agencies to provide nest boxes in areas where falcons show interest in nesting. Young falcons are fitted with unique color-numeric bands whenever possible so that individuals can be identified and productivity and survival can be tracked.

Most of the hacking efforts in the Midwest for peregrine falcons have

ceased now that populations are stable. Peregrine falcons are no longer released in Kentucky, yet the nesting population continues to grow.

Kentucky now hosts 12 active peregrine falcon territories and most of those nesting falcons are wild-hatched birds. In fact, Kentucky currently has only

one captive-bred falcon left nesting in the state that was released during the recovery efforts in the 1990's. That bird (male) usually nests on the US-421 Bridge in Milton, KY. He is named Asa Crane, and he was released in 1997 at the Kentucky Utilities Ghent Station in Carroll County just eight miles or so up river from Milton. He is now 15 years old.

For more information about peregrine falcons in the Midwest, please visit the following website: <http://midwestperegrine.org/>



## GASSETT MEETS SECRETARY SALAZAR

Commissioner Jon Gasset had occasion to meet U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on a recent trip to Washington, D.C. Gasset, also president of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, was meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe about reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration Act and Land and Water Conservation Fund.



## Commonwealth seeking nominations recognizing public employees

**K**now a public employee who's made a difference in the lives of others? Recognize them through the Governor's Ambassador Awards.

Nominations can be made by a public employee or private citizen, in six categories: customer service, courage, leadership, professional achievement, teamwork and community service or volunteerism. The nomination form is available online, <http://personnel.ky.gov/empref/GovernorsAmbassadorAward>, and may be submitted via e-mail, fax or mail. Those presently employed or employed within the past 12 months by

any of the three branches of government are eligible to be nominated.

Nominations are reviewed by a selection committee, co-chaired by First Lady Jane Beshear and Personnel Cabinet Secretary Tim Longmeyer, and finalists are chosen. Gov. Steve Beshear then selects the overall winners in each category.

"Our public employees are devoted to serve the people of this Commonwealth," Mrs. Beshear said. "Many of them selflessly go above and beyond the call of duty, without the faintest notion of being recognized themselves. I am honored to be

involved in the program and to thank our public servants for all that they do."

Employees are honored during a special awards ceremony. In 2011, over 230 employees were recognized. Award winners in each category receive a personalized engraved brick placed along Ambassador Avenue outside the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort.

The submission deadline for the 2012 awards is Aug. 31. For additional program details and previous recipient information, visit the Personnel Cabinet's website, <http://personnel.ky.gov> or call (502) 564-5954.

## Kentucky Afield's Farmer, Baglan, Volland honored

**M**embers of the Kentucky Afield television and radio staff recently won prestigious national and regional awards for broadcast excellence.

"Kentucky Afield" television host **Tim Farmer** won an EMMY for his role as host. He received the award July 28 in Cincinnati from the Ohio Valley Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

**Charlie Baglan** won first place for audio program in the Association of Conservation Information's national contest. Charlie's "Your Lifejacket's Got Your Back" was part of a safe boating campaign aired on radio stations throughout the state. Awards were announced July 19 at Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

"Kentucky Afield" television's **Brian Volland** also received a nomination by The Ohio Valley Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his documentary about the lifecycle of a muskellunge.

"We have an outstanding "Kentucky Afield" team," said Producer **Scott Moore**.



Kentucky Afield staff members Brian Volland, Tim Farmer and Charlie Baglan.

"It's a great honor when those on the regional and national stage recognize our

work with nominations and awards such as these."



Pictures of the newly completed Newfoundland boat ramp at Grayson Lake in Elliott County. *Ryan Oster photos*



## Engineering completes two new Elliott County stream access sites

**E**ngineering Division recently completed two new access sites in Elliott County.

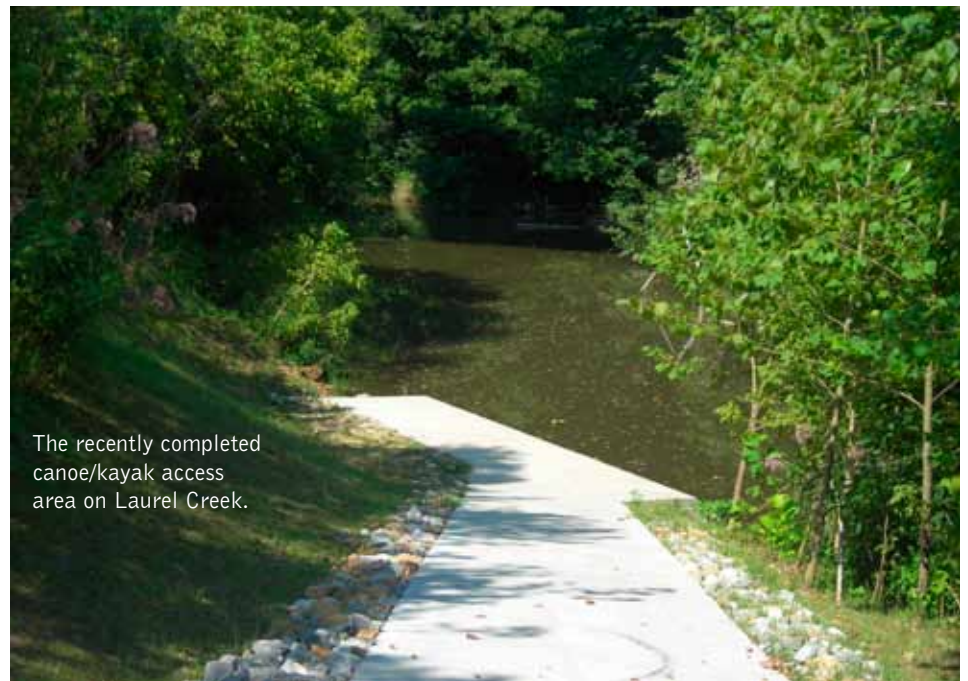
A paved, single lane boat ramp near the town of Newfoundland in the upper reaches of Grayson Lake is now open. It includes paved parking to accommodate up to 11 vehicles and trailers.

Anglers and boaters can access the area by traveling south on US-7 out of Grayson. After passing KY-885, the boat ramp is located on the right just before passing over Grayson Lake.

The second site is a new canoe/kayak carry down facility located southeast of the Newfoundland site on Laurel Creek (a tributary to Grayson Lake). The project includes a paved walkway leading down to a paved platform along the banks of Laurel Creek.

Its gravel parking lot can accommodate as many as 15 vehicles.

People can access the area by traveling south on US-7 out of Grayson. After pass-



The recently completed canoe/kayak access area on Laurel Creek.

ing through the small town of Newfoundland, turn left onto Old Laurel Curve Rd. The site is located on the right shortly after crossing the bridge over Laurel Creek.

Both sites were contracted out by the Engineering Division in cooperation with the Finance and Administration Cabinet. Frederick and May Construction Company received the bid and did an outstanding job on both projects.

Funding for the construction of both projects was provided by the federal Sport

Fish Restoration Program. Maintenance and general upkeep of both projects is being completed by the Little Sandy Correctional Facility.

For more information about each project, please contact Lee Kemper at (502) 564-5208. For more information about the fishing opportunities at Grayson Lake, please feel free to contact Fred Howes or Tom Timmerman (North-eastern Fishery District Office) at (606) 783-8650.





Terry Yarbrough (left) and Kenneth Bucy (right) pushing wooden sticks in the mud to create a stake bed for fish habitat at Kentucky Lake. *Paul Rister photos*

## Western Fishery District continues building fish habitat

**D**uring the heated summer months, Western Fishery District (WFD) staff don't sample fish as much with electrofishing and netting. Instead, they focus more towards developing and enhancing fish habitat.

Older, man-made reservoirs often lack suitable fish habitat as a result of their aging process.

Fluctuating water levels exacerbate the rate at which wood and other structures naturally decay. Ponds and reservoirs that contain little or no natural underwater structure can benefit from artificial structure, like stake beds.

The WFD has developed and maintained wooden stake beds at Kentucky and Barkley lakes since the early 1980's. Fish and Wildlife Technicians **Terry Yarbrough** and **Kenneth Bucy** have been intricately involved with this process for most of these years.

Stake beds are created by pushing, and sometimes hammering, approximately 100 wooden stakes into about a 10' x 10' square. In the past decade, the WFD has built about 2,560 stake beds on Kentucky and Barkley lakes. Interesting, if you do the math, Terry and Kenneth have been a part of sticking well over a half a million

wooden stakes into the mud of these lakes during their career with the Department.

At Kentucky and Barkley lakes, stake beds can be found in the backs of most embayments. At summer pool elevation these stake beds will be in six feet of water. Each stake bed is marked with a white pole in the center of the bed to comply with Tennessee Valley Authority and US Corps of Engineer guidelines. A map with the location of stake beds is available on the Department's web page.

Many fish use the stake beds throughout the year; however, some sportfish spe-

cies use them at a more specific time. In spring time, the stake beds are fished more for crappie that are in transition during the pre and post spawn times.

Largemouth bass will also use the stake beds as staging areas around spawning time. The morning hours or late afternoon during summer also are a good time to fish the stake beds to target largemouth bass up chasing small shad minnows.

Sunfish tend to use the stake beds year around. Catfish have also been known to frequent the stake beds year around in search of an easy meal.



One of many clusters of stake beds in Jonathan Creek (Kentucky Lake) created by staff in the Western Fishery District.

## Success realized in west Kentucky wild pig project



*Matt Peay photo*

**W**ild pigs are an ecological and agricultural time bomb whose potential for damage has increased significantly with expansion of their range.

While the biological and economic impacts from wild pigs are still being recognized, state wildlife agencies do now agree that effective control specifically requires targeted and well orchestrated removal efforts.

In Kentucky, significant success has been realized through implementation of a KDFWR wild pig control plan that targeted one of our most abundant populations of this invasive species; sadly, it is one that originated from an illegal release for hunting opportunities.

The plan incorporated cooperative efforts from the KDFWR, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (USDA WS), Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, local municipal governments, and a network of cooperating landowners.

Collectively, this group entered the project with the common goal of effectively controlling, and optimistically eradicating, this population of wild pigs that was responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in crop damage. By utilizing science-based control methods across the entire population, in conjunction with limited rec-

reational hunting, the KDFWR has developed a recipe for success.

KDFWR trapping efforts coupled with USDA WS aerial shooting operations removed 410 wild pigs from this population between December 2010 and March 2012. Aerial shooting removed 237 pigs during the winter of 2010-11; likewise, a combined trapping and aerial

shooting campaign killed an additional 173 pigs from this population between August 2011 and March 2012.

Subsequent inquiries to local farmers produced no complaints of agricultural damage by pigs during the early growing season. In addition, the most recent aerial operations by USDA WS personnel observed lush vegetative understories in areas that were previously browsed almost to the ground during the winter of 2011-12. Currently, vegetative understories in these areas resemble normal levels of growth as compared to most other areas of western Kentucky where wild pigs do not occur.

Collectively, intensive and ongoing removal efforts have significantly decreased pig abundance and associated damage concerns in an area that recently contained the highest pig densities in the Commonwealth.

While some crop damage has been reported as those plants have matured in later summer, that degree of damage is not

comparable with that observed in prior years. Continuing efforts are being implemented locally to remove remaining wild pigs that have been observed in low numbers and in a patchy distribution.

The KDFWR is committed to support this cooperative effort to ensure we continue on a path to eradication of this wild pig population.

### CAMPER'S BIG CATCH IS NEW CAMP CURRIE RECORD



James Theabold of Symsonia School in Graves County left his mark at Camp Currie this summer with this big bass. His 6-pound, 4-ounce large-mouth is the largest bass ever caught by a camper at Camp Currie. The big bass put up quite a battle. James easily won the Camp Currie award for biggest fish of the week.



## Fisheries staff contribute to development of Lower Mississippi River Fishing Guide

The Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee (LMRCC) was first formed in 1994.

Its mission statement is to, "Promote the wise use of the natural resources of the Lower Mississippi River through cooperative efforts involving planning, management, information sharing, public education, advocacy, and research."

Since its inception, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, in addition to the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection, have been active members of this working committee and its coalition of state and federal agency partners.

They have worked to help address the numerous challenges facing the lower Mississippi River and strive to renew and effectively manage its diversity of natural resources.

The lower Mississippi River is that portion of the river south of the confluence with the Ohio River. Through grants, the LMRCC has helped fund several restoration projects on the lower Mississippi River. These projects have opened up miles of secondary channels and oxbow lakes which had previously become shut off from the main river channel as a result of natural sand bar development, as well as the construction of man-made dikes.

Their most recent project and accomplishment was the development of a new fishing guide "Fishing the Lower Mississippi River" that is aimed at informing the public about the available resources of the river. This interactive guide is offered as an

on-line tool, complete with video clips and helpful hints, to educate anglers and boaters on the Lower Mississippi River. The guide can also be downloaded and printed.

Anglers and boaters who are interested in viewing the guide can now do so at [www.lmrcc.org](http://www.lmrcc.org).

For more information about this guide or for additional information about the LMRCC and its efforts, please feel free to contact Paul Rister (Western Fishery District Program Coordinator) at 270-753-3886.



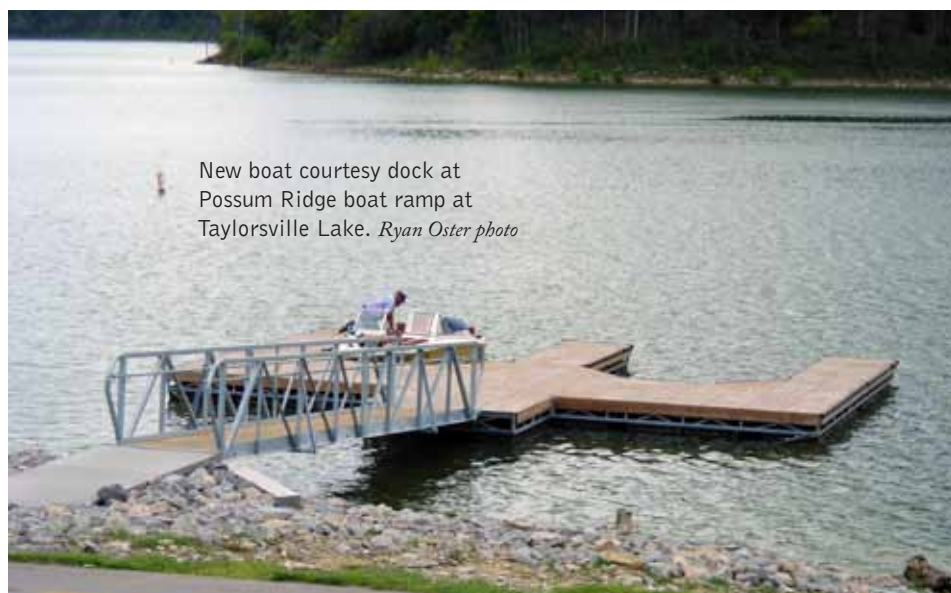
## Engineering renovates courtesy docks at Taylorsville Lake

Engineering Division staff recently completed installing new boat courtesy docks at the Possum Ridge and Settlers Trace boat ramps at Taylorsville Lake.

They also plan to rework the existing boat courtesy docks at Chowning Lane and Van Buren boat ramps in the near future.

These boat courtesy docks were damaged as a result of the intense flooding that occurred during the spring of 2011.

That's when Taylorsville Lake water levels for the first time exceeded the emergency spillway. Funding for much of this work is being reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a result of the flooding.



New boat courtesy dock at Possum Ridge boat ramp at Taylorsville Lake. *Ryan Oster photo*

## Wildlife and Fisheries cooperatively improve fishing opportunities at Fleming WMA

Over the course of the summer, staff from the Fleming Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the Northeastern Fishery District have been working hard to return a historical fishing hotspot back to its fishable state.

A five-acre pond located on Fleming WMA was inundated with Spatterdock, a flowering aquatic plant that made it virtually unfishable. **Nathan Gregory**, wildlife biologist at Fleming WMA, contacted the Northeastern Fishery District to inquire about techniques that could be utilized to control this aquatic plant.

The spatterdock had taken over the pond and made it almost unfishable. Fish and Wildlife Technicians (**Chad Nickell** and **Kevan Lane**) had to cut lanes in the spatterdock to allow access for a fisheries spray boat to maneuver.

Fisheries staff utilized a combination treatment of a Diquat-based and a Glyphosate-based chemical to selectively reduce spatterdock throughout the pond. All treatments followed the manufacturer's recommendations. With repeated trips, the spatterdock has been significantly reduced throughout the pond and signs of anglers returning to bank fish are beginning to emerge.

While no one likes to see trash around the lake, the presence of bait containers, fishing line, and bobbers are a sure sign that anglers have returned to fish the pond.

Plans are to continue to monitor and treat any vegetation that comes back



Before and after pictures of the 5-acre fishing pond at Fleming WMA. Staff from the Northeast Fishery District chemically removed over-abundant spatterdock in an effort to improve bank fishing access to the pond. *Kevan Lane photos*

during subsequent years. Staff from the Northeastern Fishery District will conduct a complete fish population survey in the upcoming year to determine the overall health of the population.

This project is yet another excellent ex-

ample of cross divisional efforts between Wildlife and Fisheries staff to help improve recreational fishing opportunities throughout Kentucky. For more information on this particular project, please feel free to contact Tom Timmerman at (606-783-8650).



## Cranks Creek Educational Trail

A \$20,000 Recreational Trails Program grant was awarded to the Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission (KSNPC) to develop a ½ mile educational trail and outdoor classroom at Cranks Creek Wildlife Management Area.

The grant is to be used for parking, to refurbish an amphitheater, interpretive signs along the trail and an information kiosk. The intended user groups are local school children and other visitors who would like to learn more about plants and animals on the area.

KDFWR staff have been working closely with Kyle Napier of KSNPC to see this interpretive trail to completion. The trail should be open to public use this month.



## DAMAGE AT HEADQUARTERS



Strong July storms in Frankfort destroyed some trees and put staff members Todd Murphy and Patrick Roberts to work cleaning up the debris near the Salato Wildlife Education Center. A lightning strike took this big oak. *John Aldridge photos*





## KDFWR named QDMA Agency of the Year

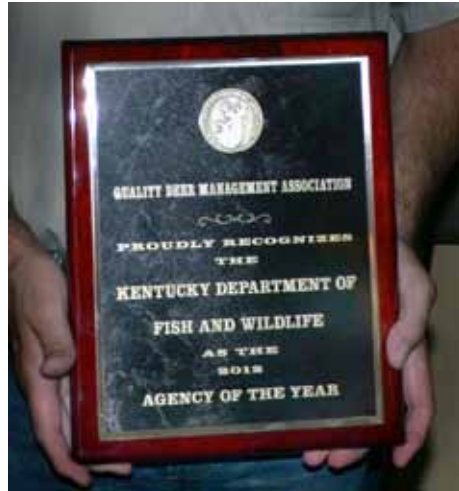
The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) was named the Quality Deer Management Association's (QDMA) Agency of the Year at the 2012 QDMA National Convention.

Presented annually since 2003, the Agency of the Year award goes to an agency that has a record of supporting the philosophy of Quality Deer Management (QDM) and the mission of the QDMA. KDFWR becomes the first repeat winner of the award, having also earned the honor in 2004. Commissioner of the KDFWR, Dr. Jon Gassett, accepted the award on behalf of the agency.

KDFWR has established itself as one of the most progressive, respected and successful wildlife agencies in the United States and has developed a tremendous working relationship with QDMA on both a local and national level. KDFWR is exemplary in service to their constituents and in management of their natural resources, particularly the white-tailed deer.

"A third of the bucks killed in Kentucky are 1.5 years old, and that's well below the national average," said QDMA's Director of Education and Outreach Kip Adams. "Twenty-six percent of the bucks killed in Kentucky are 3.5 years old or older, which is tremendous. They do a great job of protecting young bucks and moving them into older age classes. They also do a great job of balancing their herd with the habitat through the appropriate number of antlerless tags."

Kentucky has consistently ranked in the top 10 for Boone and Crockett deer harvested in the U.S. and in the top three for Boone and Crockett Deer harvested per square



mile. Kentucky offers over-the-counter tags for all residents and non-residents due to the success of its herd, and the non-resident tag fees are among the least expensive in the nation. Additionally, Kentucky has one of the more progressive antler restrictions within their state using antler spread restriction to protect yearling bucks in parts of the state, which is more biologically sound than an antler point restriction.

"One hundred years ago, Kentucky had hardly any deer at all. Now we're one

of the top deer hunting destinations in the country," said Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Dr. Jon Gassett. "That would not have happened without the dedication and hard work of our employees throughout the years, and the hunters who we depend upon to help manage the herd. We are honored to receive this recognition as the top agency in the country."

In addition to deer herd success, KDFWR has been successful in all facets of wildlife and fisheries management. They are committed to making natural resources available to all citizens and have extensive programs in place to do just that. Not only does KDFWR work to promote conservation education publicly and in schools, but they also value continuing education for their staff as demonstrated by the workshop held in partnership with QDMA to put employees through a modified Deer Steward course.

"KDFWR has worked very well with the public in Kentucky and engages hunters," Adams noted. "They continue to implement new programs to keep all segments of hunting public involved, engaged and learning. They work really well with QDMA Branches and other conservation organizations."

## KENTUCKY AFIELD CALL-IN SHOW



Members of Boy Scout Troop 37, of Lawrenceburg, manned the phone banks and relayed questions from viewers during last week's "Kentucky Afield" television non-game live call-in show in the studios of Kentucky Educational Television (KET). Show producer Scott Moore said it was the first time that a youth group had taken calls for the show, but he called the venture a success and says they will be looking to do it more in the future. *Scott Moore photo*